

1. Is teaming encouraged?

Yes, very much so. DARPA is goal oriented, and strongly encourages collaborations among all interested parties, not only to improve the potential for a successful project but also to improve the overall technology base pursuing these ideas. To facilitate teaming, an interactive web site has been established at URL: <http://www.walcoff.com/shm/>. This site provides a vehicle for individual researchers and organizations to both define their specific areas of expertise or non-proprietary capabilities and request assistance in other areas. Use of this site is the sole responsibility of the participants. DARPA will not participate in this activity other than to provide the web site forum to enable the initial communications.

2. Can government laboratories, national laboratories, or federally funded research and development centers participate as team members with private companies or universities?

Team members can include government laboratories, national laboratories, or federally funded research and development centers in accordance with legal restriction on teaming for the specific organization. Government and national laboratories may not participate as principle investigators or lead organization for BAA99-21.

3. Is there a requirement for all team members to have a U.S. security clearances or the work to be done at a secure facility?

It is DARPA's intention that all the work performed as a result of submission to BAA99-21 be unclassified. For this reason the work can be performed at non-secured facilities and by individuals not possessing a U.S. security clearance.

4. Have there been previous awards by DARPA in the general area of mobile landmines?

The Self-Healing Minefield program is a new program at DARPA. There have been no previous awards that address the specific technical requirements for this program.

5. Is the original cover sheet provided in the Proposer Information Packet included in the page count for the pre-proposal?

Yes. The pre-proposal may not exceed ten (10) pages. This includes the original cover sheet.

6. If a pre-proposal or proposal is turned down, will a specific reason be given?

No. Aside from a letter stating that the proposed technology is not suitable for the program, no other explanation will be provided. Much as we would like to provide more detailed feedback, many of pre-proposals and proposals are received. Providing a detailed accounting of decisions is impractical.

7. If my pre-proposal receives a rejection letter, can I still submit a full proposal?

Yes.

8. Can I submit more than one proposal?

Yes. But each proposal must be submitted separately.

9. How are proposals evaluated?

DARPA has assembled a panel, consisting of experts in the relevant areas, to advise on the technical merit of the proposals. Both government and non-government experts are involved in the evaluation panel. The DARPA technical program manager makes the final selection of those projects to be funded.

10. On the Cover Sheet/Cost Summary section is the first year cost to the Government in terms of the Government Fiscal Year or 12 month performance period?

All program costs should be broken down by twelve-month performance periods.

11. Is it possible to get clarification of a technical issue during the BAA process?

No. No questions of a technical nature will be answered during the BAA process.